

HOT WATER SAFETY AND SCALDING PREVENTION

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Did you know?

Skin sensitivity of children and the elderly can mean scalding at lower temperatures.

Hot water is responsible for the highest number of fatal and severe scald injuries in the home. The very young and the very old are particularly vulnerable.

Lower temperatures are recommended for babies, small children and older people. There are around 21 deaths every year associated with scalds. There are over 570 severe scalds from bath water and 25 from other taps.

Your hot water boiler and immersion heater when installed and serviced will be set to operate within the pre-set factory settings.

If you can control the temperature by adjusting the thermostat you should ensure that the water isn't excessively hot.

SAFETY TIPS

Bathing safety tips

The Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) recommends parents and carers always test bath water and shower temperatures before bathing older people and children. Always fill with cold water first, then bring the water up to the desired temperature.

- Never leave young children or older people unattended in the bath
- Don't rely on an older sibling who is also in the bath being able to supervise
- Ensure you've everything that you need close at hand before you put your child in the bath
- Don't be tempted by telephone, doorbell or other distractions to leave your child
- If you have a medical condition that makes you susceptible to collapse or fitting, always bathe with caution and preferably when other people are present in the house
- Consider taking a shower instead of a bath
- If you've limited mobility or are frail, have rails and seats fitted to assist you to get in and out of the bath, and if possible ask someone to help
- Consider a seated shower as a safer alternative, but use rails and non-slip mats as well
- Drain the bathtub immediately after use.

Did you know?

A child's skin is much more sensitive than an adults. A hot drink can scald a child 15 minutes after being made.

Scalds

Most scalds are caused by hot drinks being spilt. Hot bath water is responsible for most fatal and severe scalding injuries among children.

Prevention

- When running a bath turn the cold water on first and always test the water before your children get in the bath or shower
- Babies, young children and the elderly have delicate skin. Avoid putting hand directly under hot taps when running
- Keep hot drinks away from the edge of table so children can't reach them
- Never hold a hot drink and a child at the same time
- Use a coiled flex or cordless kettle
- Use the rear hot plates when cooking. Make sure the panhandles don't stick out, so they can't be knocked off
- Keep small children out of the kitchen whenever possible
- Test micro-waved and heated food for heat before feeding young children.

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For more information on adaptations

Customers in Devon, Cornwall, Hampshire and Wiltshire: 01264 405613.

Customers in Somerset and Dorset: 01929 558472